

Greystone
Pevely, Mo.

HABS No. MO.-1133

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT - ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer
1592 Arcade Building, St. Louis, Mo.

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An addendum to:
Greystone Manor (Ashley House)
Pevely vicinity
Jefferson County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1133

PHOTOGRAPHS
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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to GRAYSTONE MANOR (Ashley House)

HABS No. MO-1133

Location: Glenn Park Road, thirty miles south of St. Louis, Pevely vicinity, Jefferson County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Built ca. 1825-1830.

"The estate was originally deeded by the Federal Government in 1825 to Colonel Foster, under whose direction the manor house on the property was erected by slave labor over a period of five years. Large stone blocks forming its outer walls were quarried on the grounds and stone trim for windows and arches was transported to the site from Ste. Genevieve in barges.

"Architecturally, the house is considered a perfect example of the English Victorian period. Once containing twenty-two rooms, it has since been restored to its original dimensions. A ten room frame house added as a wing about the time of the Civil War was removed several years ago to another promontory overlooking the river....

"The surrounding grounds were once the site of the largest grape propagating farm in America. Under the supervision of Isador Bush, an organizer of the St. Joseph Lead Company, who acquired the estate in 1865, 175 acres in the vicinity were planted with grapes and an output of 60,000 gallons of wine flowed from the vineyards annually." (William F. Jackson, real estate editor, The Globe-Democrat, Sunday, September 19, 1937.)

Addenda by C. van Ravenswaay, Sept. 9, 1986

I have seen no evidence to prove or disprove that Col. Foster built Greystone Manor but it was more probably built by Isidor Bush as his country home at Bushberg, Jefferson County. He was founder and owner of a famous nursery for propagating grapes: Isidor Bush & Son, later Bush & Son, and Meissener. It was established ca. 1869, or at least the first catalogue was issued that year, and it operated until sometime after 1883. His annual nursery catalogue of grapes was edited by the famous St. Louis botanist, Dr. George Engelmann, and was and is a classic.

The house is very handsome. It was "restored" by the St. Louis dress designer, Grace Ashley, in the 1940s.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the ~~State~~ records for MO-1800.